

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. **Claims 23-26** are amended. **Claims 30-39** are added. **Claims 1-39** are pending.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 23, 24, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of the claims. **Claims 23, 24, 25 and 26** have been amended to correct the antecedent basis, in particular the “program code” has been replaced in each of the claims with “component.” The respective “component,” be it the first or the second “component” found in base **claim 22**, is claimed in the respective independent **claim 23, 24, 25, or 26**.

Examiner has made the assumption that **claims 23, 24, 25, and 26** depend upon **claim 27** and not **claim 22**. Applicants provide argument as to the allowance of the claims based on the Examiner’s cited references as they apply to each claim element.

35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-11, 13-17, and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 6,161,099 to Harrington et al (Harrington).

Claim 1 recites “retrieving configuration details associated with a potential trading partner from a remote site” and “automatically configuring a trading relationship with the potential trading partner using the configuration details.” Harrington fails to disclose these features.

1 As described in the specification of the subject application, exemplary
2 "configuration details" include trading partner name, mailing address, Web site
3 address, email, network and data communication protocol(s), cryptographic
4 capabilities, digital certificates, etc. (See specification page 2, lines 12-14).
5 According to claim 1, a potential trading partner retrieves the configuration details
6 of another trading partner and uses the details to automatically configure the
7 electronic trading relationship. The process is advantageous over prior art systems
8 in that the trading relationships are established automatically. The user/operator
9 no longer needs to manually input the configuration details of every trading
10 partner. When scaled to thousands of trading partners, this results in a substantial
11 and significant gain in efficiency and administrative costs.

12 Harrington is directed to an online auction site for municipal bonds. In
13 Harrington's scheme, a potential bidder for the bonds logs into the auction website
14 and is led through a series of pages, including the registration page (Fig. 4) and a
15 selection page 28 (Fig. 5). The bidder fills out a registration form shown in Fig. 4.
16 This is done for security reasons associated with the issuance of bonds, so that the
17 bidder's credentials can be verified as being someone who can submit legitimate
18 bids. The bidder can alternatively make arrangements in advance with the
19 auctioneer. The bidder manually fills out the registration form, and may prepare
20 and submit bids by typing entries and using conventional mouse clicks as in
21 accessing a typical website. See Harrington, column 6, line 66 to column 7, line
22 29.

23 Harrington fails to disclose the invention of claim 1 in three respects. First,
24 Harrington does not describe "retrieving configuration details associated with a
25 potential trading partner". The information entered by the bidder is for verification

1 of the bidder, not to enable configuration of computing systems to enter into
2 partner-to-partner communications. Secondly, even assuming the information
3 entered by the bidder can be considered “configuration details”, Harrington’s
4 scheme is not directed to establishing a trading relationship between trading
5 partners, because there is no mutual exchange of configuration details. Only the
6 bidder enters some minimal information.

7 Thirdly, Harrington does not address the “automatic configuration of a
8 trading relationship ... using the configuration details”. Rather, Harrington merely
9 describes a simple registration with an auction site. There is no configuration
10 occurring at the bidder or the auctioneer.

11 Accordingly, **claim 1** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants respectfully
12 request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 1** be withdrawn.

13 **Dependent claims 2-3** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on
14 respective base **claim 1**. Additionally, these claims recite features not shown by
15 Harrington. For instance, **claim 3** recites “automatically populating the trading
16 partner record with the configuration details.”

17 Harrington requires that a bidder to type out a bid (transaction) for each bid
18 (transaction) that is submitted. Specifically, Harrington states that the user “may
19 prepare and submit bids by typing entries and using conventional mouse clicks as
20 in accessing a typical web site.” See Harrington col. 7, lines 8-12. The present
21 invention allows for a trading record to be created and automatically populated
22 using the potential trading partner’s configuration details. (See specification, page
23 2 lines 22-24 to page 3 lines 1-2). For this additional reason, **claim 3** is allowable
24 over Harrington.
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1 Applicants respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claims 2-3** be
2 withdrawn.

3 **Claim 4** recites “collecting configuration details associated with a trading
4 partner participating in the commerce trading system” and “publishing the
5 configuration details to a Web site.” Harrington fails to disclose these aspects.
6 Neither the auctioneer site that hosts the auctions, nor the bidder, collects its own
7 configuration details and publishes them to a Web site that can be accessed by the
8 other party.

9 Accordingly, **claim 4** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants respectfully
10 request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 4** be withdrawn.

11 **Dependent claims 5-7** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on
12 respective base **claim 4**.

13 **Claim 8** recites “retrieving configuration details associated with a potential
14 trading partner from a remote site.” For the reasons pointed out in support of **claim**
15 **1**, Harrington fails to disclose retrieving configuration details as recited in **claim 8**.
16 Further, **claim 8** recites “populating the trading partner record with the
17 configuration details retrieved from the remote site.” For the reasons pointed out
18 in support of **claim 3**, Harrington fails to disclose populating the trading partner
19 record with the configuration details received from the remote site.

20 Accordingly, **claim 8** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants respectfully
21 request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 8** be withdrawn.

22 **Dependent claim 9** is allowable by virtue of its dependency on respective
23 base **claim 8**.

24 **Claim 10** recites “collecting configuration details associated with the first
25 trading partner.” For the reasons pointed out in support of **claim 4**, Harrington

1 fails to disclose collecting configuration details as recited in **claim 10**. Further,
2 **claim 10** recites “populating the trading partner record with the configuration
3 details associated with the first trading partner.” For the reasons pointed out in
4 support of **claim 3**, Harrington fails to disclose populating the trading partner
5 record with the configuration details associated with the first trading partner.

6 Accordingly, **claim 10** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants
7 respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 10** be withdrawn.

8 **Dependent claims 11, 13-14** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on
9 respective base **claim 10**.

10 **Claim 15** recites “the first computer system collecting configuration details
11 associated with the first trading partner.” For the reasons pointed out in support of
12 **claim 4**, Harrington fails to disclose collecting configuration details as recited in
13 **claim 15**. Further, **claim 15** recites “automatically configure for a trading
14 relationship with the first trading partner using the configuration details.” For the
15 reasons pointed out in support of **claim 1**, Harrington fails to disclose
16 automatically configuring for a trading relationship with the first trading partner
17 using configuration details.

18 Accordingly, **claim 15** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants
19 respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 10** be withdrawn.

20 **Dependent claims 16-17, and 18-21** are allowable by virtue of their
21 dependency on respective base **claim 15**.

22 **Claim 22** recites “the first component collecting configuration details
23 associated with the first trading partner” and “the second component retrieving the
24 configuration details.” For the reasons pointed out in support of **claim 1**,
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1 Harrington fails to disclose collecting and retrieving configuration details as
2 recited in **claim 22**.

3 Accordingly, **claim 22** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants
4 respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 22** be withdrawn.

5 **Dependent claims 23-26** are allowable by virtue of their dependency on
6 respective base **claim 15**.

7 **Claim 27** recites “collect configuration details associated with the first
8 trading” and “retrieve the configuration details.” For the reasons given above,
9 Harrington fails to disclose collecting and retrieving configuration details.

10 Accordingly, **claim 27** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants
11 respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 27** be withdrawn.

12 **Claim 28** recites “collecting configuration details.” For the reasons pointed
13 out in support of **claim 4**, Harrington fails to disclose collecting configuration
14 details as recited in **claim 28**.

15 Accordingly, **claim 28** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants
16 respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 28** be withdrawn.

17 **Claim 29** recites “retrieving configuration details.” For the reasons pointed
18 out in support of **claim 1**, Harrington fails to disclose receiving configuration
19 details as recited in **claim 29**.

20 Accordingly, **claim 29** is patentable over Harrington. Applicants
21 respectfully request that the §102(e) rejection of **claim 29** be withdrawn.
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1 **35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

2 **Claims 12 and 18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being
3 unpatentable over Harrington in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,338,050 to Conklin et al
4 (Conklin).

5 **Claim 12** depends on base **claim 10**. **Claim 10** recites “collecting
6 configuration details associated with the first trading partner.” For the reasons
7 pointed out in support of **claim 4**, Harrington fails to disclose collecting
8 configuration details as recited in **claim 10**. Accordingly, **claim 10** and dependent
9 **claim 12** are patentable over Harrington. Further **claim 12** recites “publishing the
10 configuration details in XML format.” Conklin discloses the use of XML format,
11 however, Conklin fails to teach or suggest the use of configuration details as
12 described in claim 12.

13 Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of **claim 12** be
14 withdrawn.

15 **Claim 18** depends on base **claim 15**. **Claim 15** recites “the first computer
16 system collecting configuration details associated with the first trading partner.”
17 For the reasons pointed out in support of **claim 1**, Harrington fails to disclose
18 collecting configuration details as recited in **claim 15**. Further, **claim 15** recites
19 “automatically configure for a trading relationship with the first trading partner
20 using the configuration details.” For the reasons pointed out in support of **claim 1**,
21 Harrington fails to disclose automatically configuring for a trading relationship
22 with the first trading partner using configuration details. Accordingly, **claim 15**
23 and dependent **claim 18** are patentable over Harrington. Further **claim 18** recites
24 “post the configuration details in XML format.” Conklin discloses the use of
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1 XML format, however Conklin fails to teach or suggest the use of configuration
2 details as described by the present invention.

3 Applicants respectfully request that the §103(a) rejection of **claim 18** be
4 withdrawn.

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6 **Added Claims**

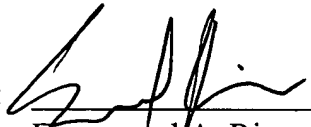
7 **Claims 30-39** have been added. **Claims 30-39** address the ability for
8 trading partners to mutually receive one another's configuration details and
9 automatically establish a trading relationship based on the configuration details.
10 Harrington does not disclose or teach such an architecture. **Claims 30-39** are
11 patentable over Harrington.

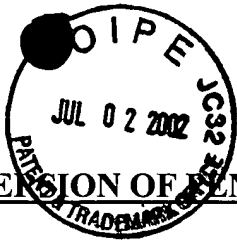
12
13 **CONCLUSION**

14 All pending **claims 1-39** are in condition for allowance. Applicant
15 respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the subject
16 application. If any issues remain that prevent issuance of this application, the
17 Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney before issuing a subsequent
18 Action.

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20 Respectfully Submitted,

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22 Dated: 8/2/02

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MARKED UP VERSION OF PENDING CLAIMS UNDER 37 C.F.R. §

1.121(C)(1)(ii):

Amend claims 23, 24, 25, and 26 as follows and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), by which the Applicant submits the following marked up version only for claims being changed by the current amendment, wherein the markings are shown by brackets (for deleted matter) and/or underlining (for added matter):

23. (Once Amended) A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the first [program code] component presents a graphical user interface to enable a user to enter the configuration details.

24. (Once Amended) A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the first [program code] component posts the configuration details to a URL (universal resource locator) at the Web site.

25. (Once Amended) A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 24, wherein the second [program code] component addresses the URL to access the configuration details.

26. (Once Amended) A electronic commerce system as recited in claim 22, wherein the second [program code] component creates a trading partner record and automatically populates the trading partner record with the configuration details.